--- “Series of 1883” - Manufactured Tobacco [RP] strips ---

Black [RP-435 to RP-572]

Green [RP-575 to RP-600]

Blue [RP-603 to RP-632]

The compilation of the following pages has taken over fifty years, and the material therein has been acquired from many sources. These sources include the various collections purchased over the years, from the stock books of Erling and Laurie van Dam, from correspondence with Chris Ryan, Fritz Angst and Dr. Earl Covert, and from the electronic media (mainly eBay). The items currently in my collection have been designed by the attachment of (★) to their control number.

Over the years the recording has been done by “FilePro”, by “Multi-Mate”, by the various stages of “Word Perfect”, and finally by “MS Word 2010” (where the files have been compacted by using the “.docx” format). The scans were done by “Word Perfect X5”, and have been converted to “MS 2007.docx”, and then ultimately upgraded to “MS 2010.docx”.

The manufactured tobacco strips provide an ideal platform from which a ‘work-out’ of the cancellation codes used by the major tobacco companies begins, since the sequential control numbers form a basic ‘date-base’. “Imperial Tobacco” introduced a ‘code-date’ system in 1904, which (with tax inspired variations) ran continuously until 1974. “Macdonald Tobacco” code-dated their production from 1932-43, and their successor “R. J. Reynolds” re-introduced code-dating in the 1961-74 era. The “Imperial Tobacco” affiliates “L. O. Grothe” and “Tuckett Tobacco” originally had a different system of code dating. “Canadian Tabacofina” (prior to their merger with “Rothman”) had a system, as did “Rothman Tobacco” and “Rock City Tobacco”.

‘Truth-be-told’ I find more enjoyment from the computer, the files, and the various date codes, than I find in the actual collection - which at this stage in its life, and mine, is pretty well static.

John B. Harper,
London, Ontario,
September 26th 2013.